

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

Fall Care of Stock.

There is no question and no manner of doubt about the fact that young animals of every variety must be kept in one uniform, thriving condition, if money is to be made by raising them. They must be watched, so that whenever there is the slightest check to growth and the comely appearance of the flock or the herd, they can be moved to some better pasture or have some immediate stimulation, by giving food of more strengthening quality. This is a season of the year requiring more than ordinary care, and early every cold morning something should be given to any colts, calves or lambs which have not extra good grass or food of some kind.

It is not necessary to begin stabling at night because of moderate cold, for if the stomachs of animals are full of good food, the cool air is not disagreeable, and nature provides longer hair to assist in keeping them warm. Some people will be foolishly particular about shelter, but there is a medium, and if they will feed well out in the fields while the ground is dry, all kinds of young stock will be better for the gradual way in which they become accustomed to winter weather. Then, when severe storms come on, and they are put into winter quarters, they will escape the ordeal of the sudden change to dry food, because they have been brought regularly to it by the morning feed (and perhaps evening too) after grass becomes short. Grass ought not to be grazed so bare as to weaken the roots, and to prevent it when any one is heavily stocked, or the grass goes off through drouth, feed should be given twice per day.

It is this attention to young stock, sheep, &c., in England, which makes the tenant farmers so successful and causes the extra mutton and wool; and it is the false economy in the United States of "husbanding," as it is called, the best food, and keeping the cattle and sheep short, in consequence of which they so lose flesh, that farmers are afraid of the winter, and they sink money instead of gaining. When young animals are brought in, they should not be kept closely shut up. There should be a good ventilation; and in the daytime, especially from 10 A. M. (or earlier when mild) till 3 or 4 P. M., they should be out of their night quarters, and lie in an open yard having a shed that they can go under at pleasure. In fact, all varieties of stock should have this healthful daily airing, and at noon it will be found that any coarse fodder will be eaten with a relish in the open air, which they would not touch in their stalls.

Hogs Want Sulphur.

Whether hogs require sulphur as an essential to their health or whether it is sought by them as a condiment, may not be known for certainty. But one thing is sure, they devour it with greed whenever it is to be found. It is for this purpose, probably, that they eat large quantities of soft coal, which contains a large amount of sulphur. Perhaps this is the most economical method of supplying hogs with sulphur during the winter, when they require a good deal of carbon. But in the summer it is better to feed it to them in substance which contains less carbon on account of their producing less heat. Mustard is one of the best things for this purpose, and some of it should be sowed in every pasture into which hogs are turned. If hogs are kept in pens, or in small yards, it is well to supply them with the wild mustard that grows in the fields or highways or to cultivate some of the better varieties for them. They will eat it, leaves, flowers, seeds and stalks.

Dried Beef.

Heat milk and water (about one half of each), and thicken with a beaten egg and a little flour; when nicely boiled add the beef, which of course should be sliced as thin as possible, and immediately remove from the fire, as the less it is cooked the better; if the beef is very salty it will need freshening a little in hot water before going into the gravy, but if not, it will season it just right without freshening.

Tapoca Pudding.

Wash one and one-half cups of tapoca and put it with one quart of milk, on the back part of the stove to heat and swell; when nicely softened add one quart of cold milk, and a little salt, one egg, and sugar to sweeten as desired; bake an hour and a half, or two hours, according to the heat of the oven.

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